



NEWS RELEASE

December 3, 2002

McAllen Sector Four-Day Seizures Total \$7.3 Million

McALLEN, Texas – Chief Patrol Agent Jose E. Garza announces that Border Patrol Agents of the McAllen Sector seized 9,165 pounds of marijuana valued at \$7,332,000 in 23 separate seizures over the last four days, from Nov. 29 to Dec. 2, 2002.

Border Patrol Agents working in various stations were busy the last four days with significant marijuana seizures. Falfurrias, McAllen, Kingsville, Harlingen and Rio Grande City Border Patrol stations were all instrumental in these seizures.

On Nov. 29, McAllen Sector Agents seized a total of 790 pounds of marijuana valued at \$632,000, involving the Falfurrias, Harlingen and McAllen Stations.

On Nov. 30, Agents seized a total of 2,659 pounds of marijuana valued at \$2,127,200 involving the Falfurrias, Kingsville, McAllen and Rio Grande City Stations.

On Dec. 1, Agents seized a total of 242 pounds of marijuana valued at \$293,600 involving the Kingsville, Falfurrias and Rio Grande City Stations.

On Dec. 2, Agents seized a total of 5,474 pounds of marijuana valued at \$4,379,200 involving the Falfurrias, McAllen, Harlingen, Kingsville and Rio Grande City Stations.

Of the 5,474 pounds seized on Monday, Dec. 2, 4,372 pounds valued at \$3,497,600 was seized in a single seizure that occurred at approximately 11:00 a.m. near Refugio, Texas. In this incident, Agents of the Rio Grande City Station disrupted a smuggling operation as smugglers were attempting to load the marijuana into three pickup trucks. Upon encountering the illicit operation, Agents observed several subjects fleeing the scene and absconding across the river back to Mexico. Gunshots were heard during the commotion, but, it is unknown if the gunfire was directed at the Agents. Agents secured the scene and seized the three pickup trucks, 239 large tape wrapped bundles of marijuana and one stainless steel Taurus brand .40 caliber semi automatic handgun.

This is the largest marijuana seizure for the McAllen Sector since the beginning of fiscal year 2003. Total marijuana seizures for fiscal year 2003 have reached 57,896 pounds valued at \$46,319,603.

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Video of the 4,372 pounds is available.